

Economic Inclusion and Community Resilience in the Global Economy: An Interdisciplinary Economic and Business Sustainability Framework

Fitria Nur Masithoh^{1*}, Miftakhur Rohmah², Aninda Adistyana Dewi³

Universitas Uluwiyah Mojokerto, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Economic inclusion and community resilience are increasingly recognized as key pillars for sustainable development in an uncertain global economy. However, existing studies often examine these concepts separately, resulting in fragmented insights across economic and business perspectives. This study aims to develop an interdisciplinary conceptual framework that explains how economic inclusion contributes to community resilience through sustainability-oriented business mechanisms. Using a systematic literature review of peer-reviewed articles indexed in the Scopus database between 2015 and 2024, this study synthesizes key theories and empirical insights on economic inclusion, community resilience, and sustainable business. The findings indicate that economic inclusion serves as a foundational driver of community resilience by expanding access to resources and participation, while sustainability-oriented business strategies function as a mediating mechanism that translates inclusion into long-term adaptive capacity. The global economic context further shapes these relationships. This study contributes by offering an integrative framework to support future empirical research and policy design for inclusive and resilient communities.

Keywords:

Economic Inclusion, Community Resilience, Conceptual Framework, Economics and Business, Sustainability

1. INTRODUCTION

The global economy is increasingly characterized by uncertainty driven by economic volatility, widening social inequality, environmental degradation, and rapid technological change (Kang et al., 2020; Martens & Rotmans, 2005; Matyushok et al., 2021). These dynamics have heightened the vulnerability of communities across both developed and developing regions, underscoring the need for development approaches that extend beyond growth-oriented objectives toward inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability. Consequently, the capacity of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from economic and social disruptions has emerged as a critical concern in contemporary economic and business research, particularly in relation to long-term global sustainability.

Within this context, economic inclusion has gained prominence as a strategic mechanism for addressing structural inequalities and expanding broad-based participation in economic activities (Porter & Craig, 2004; Van Niekerk, 2020a). By improving access to financial resources, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurial pathways, economic inclusion enables individuals and communities to engage more effectively in economic systems. At the same time, community resilience has become a key analytical concept for understanding how communities absorb shocks, adapt to changing conditions, and recover from crises (Hanefeld et al., 2018; Hu et al., 2024; Melendez et al., 2022; Morsut et al., 2022). Despite their growing relevance, these two concepts are frequently examined in isolation, resulting in fragmented insights that limit a holistic understanding of their interdependent roles in sustainable development.

Existing literature in economics and business studies tends to focus either on macro-level inclusive growth frameworks or firm-level sustainability and resilience strategies, with limited attention to the mechanisms that connect economic inclusion to community-level resilience outcomes (Díaz-Leyva & Cascón-Pereira, 2025; Tahir et al., 2025). Moreover, prior studies often adopt single-disciplinary perspectives, overlooking the complex interactions among economic structures, business practices, and broader global economic conditions. As a result, the pathways through which inclusive economic

*Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: fitri@lecturer.uluwiyah.ac.id (First Author)

participation is translated into enhanced community resilience—particularly through sustainability-oriented business mechanisms—remain theoretically underdeveloped.

To address this gap, this study develops an interdisciplinary conceptual framework that integrates economic inclusion, sustainability-oriented business strategies, and community resilience within the context of the global economy. Drawing on insights from economic inclusion theory, community resilience theory, and sustainable business literature, the framework explains how inclusive economic participation contributes to community resilience, with particular emphasis on the mediating role of sustainable business strategies and the moderating influence of the global economic context.

This study contributes to the literature in three ways. First, it advances theoretical understanding by bridging fragmented economic and business perspectives on inclusion, resilience, and sustainability within a unified framework. Second, it provides a conceptual foundation for future empirical research examining inclusive and resilient economic systems across diverse contexts. Finally, it offers practical insights for policymakers and business practitioners seeking to design inclusive and sustainable strategies that strengthen community resilience in an increasingly uncertain global economy.

2. METHOD

This study adopts a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach to comprehensively synthesize and evaluate existing scholarly work on inclusive economic development, business resilience, and sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective (Ebabu et al., 2025). The SLR method was selected to ensure a transparent, rigorous, and replicable review process, enabling the integration of fragmented insights across economics, business, and sustainability studies into a coherent analytical framework. This approach is particularly suitable for addressing complex global challenges that require theoretical consolidation rather than isolated empirical observations.

The literature search was conducted using the Scopus database, which was chosen due to its extensive coverage of high-quality, peer-reviewed journals in economics, business, and interdisciplinary social sciences. To capture a broad yet relevant body of literature, a structured keyword search was employed using combinations of the following terms: *"inclusive economic development," "inclusive growth," "community resilience," "economic resilience," "sustainable business," "sustainability strategy," "interdisciplinary approach,"* and *"global communities."* The search process was conducted systematically to minimize selection bias and maximize coverage of influential and emerging research streams (Hiebl, 2023; van Wee & Banister, 2024).

To ensure the relevance and quality of the reviewed literature, clear inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied. Articles were included if they met the following conditions: (1) published in peer-reviewed academic journals; (2) written in English; (3) published between 2015 and 2024, reflecting contemporary developments in inclusive and sustainable economic discourse; and (4) explicitly addressed issues related to economic inclusion, business resilience, sustainability, or their intersections. Articles were excluded if they consisted of conference proceedings, book reviews, editorials, or practitioner-oriented reports, or if they lacked a clear conceptual or theoretical contribution relevant to the research objectives.

The screening and selection of articles followed the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines. The process involved four stages: identification, screening, eligibility assessment, and final inclusion (Agrawal et al., 2024; Peters et al., 2022). Initially, all retrieved records were screened based on titles and abstracts to eliminate duplicates and clearly irrelevant studies. Subsequently, full-text assessments were conducted to ensure alignment with the inclusion criteria. The final set of selected articles formed the basis for the thematic and conceptual analysis.

The selected articles were analysed using a thematic synthesis approach. An initial open coding process was applied to identify key concepts related to economic inclusion, community resilience, and sustainability-oriented business practices (Zupancic, 2023). Codes were derived inductively from the literature while being informed by established theoretical perspectives in economics, business, and sustainability. These initial codes were then grouped into higher-order categories through an iterative process of comparison and abstraction. To enhance analytical rigor, themes were refined through repeated cross-checking across studies to identify recurring patterns, relationships, and conceptual linkages. The final themes formed the basis for the development of the

integrated conceptual framework, enabling the synthesis of fragmented insights into a coherent interdisciplinary model.

Based on the results of the thematic synthesis, a conceptual framework was developed to illustrate the relationships among the key constructs identified in the literature. The framework reflects an interdisciplinary perspective by combining economic, business, and sustainability dimensions and serves as a foundation for formulating research propositions discussed in the subsequent sections.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The systematic search and screening process resulted in a final corpus of peer-reviewed articles that explicitly address the intersection of economic inclusion, business practices, resilience, and sustainability within global and community-based contexts. The selected studies were predominantly published between 2018 and 2024, indicating a growing scholarly interest in interdisciplinary approaches to addressing complex socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Most of the reviewed articles were published in journals focusing on economics, business strategy, sustainable development, and interdisciplinary social sciences, reflecting the cross-sectoral nature of the research domain. This trend highlights an increasing recognition that inclusive and resilient global communities cannot be built through single discipline approaches alone.

Theme	Title	Description
1	Inclusive Economic Systems and Equitable Growth (Boarini et al., 2018; Fujimoto & Uddin, 2022; Kalkanci et al., 2019; Krysovaty et al., 2024; Van Niekerk, 2020)	A substantial body of literature emphasizes the role of inclusive economic systems in reducing structural inequalities and enhancing community participation in economic activities. Studies highlight mechanisms such as inclusive finance, social entrepreneurship, and equitable labor market policies as foundational drivers of community-level economic inclusion. From a business perspective, inclusive business models are increasingly recognized as strategic tools that simultaneously enhance market reach and social impact.
2	Business Resilience and Adaptive Capabilities (DiBella et al., 2023; El Korchi, 2022; J Nair et al., 2024; Purnomo et al., 2021; Vroegindewey & Hodbod, 2018)	The second thematic cluster focuses on business resilience, particularly the ability of firms and organizations to adapt to economic shocks, environmental disruptions, and global crises. The literature underscores that resilient businesses contribute significantly to community stability by maintaining employment, sustaining local value chains, and supporting economic continuity during periods of uncertainty. Interdisciplinary insights reveal that resilience is not merely an organizational trait, but a systemic outcome shaped by institutional, social, and economic factors.
3	Sustainability-Oriented Business Strategies (Ashrafi et al., 2020; Nave & Ferreira, 2019; Rathobei et al., 2024; Stubbs, 2019; van Bommel, 2018)	The third theme centers on sustainability-oriented business practices, including environmental stewardship, long-term value creation, and responsible governance. The reviewed studies demonstrate that sustainability strategies are increasingly integrated into core business models rather than treated as peripheral corporate social responsibility initiatives. This integration strengthens both economic performance and community well-being, reinforcing the alignment

		between business sustainability and broader development goals.
4	Interdisciplinary Integration for Global Community Development (DiBella et al., 2023; Zabaniotou et al., 2020)	The fourth thematic cluster highlights the importance of interdisciplinary integration in addressing the multidimensional challenges of building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable global communities. The literature consistently argues that economic inclusion, business resilience, and sustainability are interdependent rather than isolated constructs. Interdisciplinary approaches enable a more holistic understanding of how economic systems, business strategies, and social structures interact to shape community outcomes at local and global levels.

Discussion

Integrating Economic Inclusion, Business Resilience, and Sustainability

Economic inclusion refers to the process of ensuring equitable access to economic resources, opportunities, and participation for individuals and communities across socio-economic strata (Niaz, 2022). Within development economics, economic inclusion is widely recognized as a foundational mechanism for reducing structural inequalities and enhancing long-term economic participation (Van Niekerk, 2020). The theory emphasizes access to financial services, labour markets, entrepreneurial opportunities, and institutional support as key dimensions of inclusive economic systems.

The findings of this systematic literature review indicate that economic inclusion, business resilience, and sustainability are deeply interconnected constructs that collectively shape the capacity of global communities to withstand shocks and achieve long-term development. Rather than operating independently, these dimensions interact dynamically within economic and business systems. Inclusive economic practices enhance access to resources and opportunities, which strengthens community participation and social cohesion. In turn, resilient business models provide economic stability and adaptive capacity, enabling communities to respond effectively to crises and structural disruptions.

This integration aligns with contemporary interdisciplinary perspectives that emphasize the limitations of siloed economic or business approaches in addressing complex global challenges. The results suggest that inclusive growth initiatives are most effective when embedded within resilient and sustainability-oriented business ecosystems.

Business as a Catalyst for Inclusive and Resilient Communities

Community resilience theory focuses on the capacity of communities to anticipate, withstand, adapt to, and recover from economic, social, and environmental disturbances (Koliou et al., 2020). Unlike static notions of stability, resilience is understood as a dynamic and adaptive process shaped by institutional structures, social capital, and economic capabilities.

In the context of the global economy, community resilience is increasingly linked to economic diversification, local capacity building, and inclusive governance mechanisms (Dushkova & Ivlieva, 2024). The literature suggests that communities with higher levels of economic participation and institutional inclusiveness are better equipped to absorb external shocks such as financial crises, market volatility, and environmental disruptions. Accordingly, this study positions community resilience as an outcome construct that reflects the effectiveness of inclusive and sustainable economic and business practices in sustaining long-term socio-economic stability.

The reviewed literature highlights the central role of business actors in translating inclusive economic principles into tangible community outcomes. Businesses that adopt inclusive models—such as inclusive value chains, social enterprises, and impact-driven strategies—serve as intermediaries between macroeconomic policies and micro-level community realities. These models not only expand market participation among marginalized groups but also enhance firms’ adaptive capabilities by diversifying stakeholder engagement and resource bases.

From this perspective, business resilience emerges not merely as an internal organizational capacity but as a community-level stabilizing force. Resilient businesses sustain employment, maintain supply chains, and support local economies during periods of uncertainty, thereby reinforcing broader economic resilience.

Sustainability as a Long-Term Enabler of Global Community Development

The concept of sustainable business is grounded in the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) framework, which integrates economic viability, social equity, and environmental responsibility into business strategy (Schweikert et al., 2018). Sustainable business theory argues that firms operating within inclusive and responsible frameworks are better positioned to create long-term value for both shareholders and a broader range of stakeholder groups.

In the context of community development, sustainable business strategies function as a critical transmission mechanism that bridges economic inclusion and community resilience outcomes (DiBella et al., 2023). Inclusive business models, sustainable innovation, and long-term value creation practices enable economic participation to evolve into adaptive capacity at the community level. Accordingly, this study conceptualizes sustainable business strategies as a mediating mechanism that operationalizes the benefits of economic inclusion into tangible resilience-enhancing outcomes.

The reviewed literature indicates that sustainability-oriented strategies operate as long-term enabling mechanisms that align economic inclusion and business resilience with broader global development objectives. The literature further emphasizes that sustainability should be embedded within core business strategies rather than treated as a peripheral concern. Such strategic integration ensures that inclusive and resilient economic systems remain viable over time, particularly in the face of environmental pressures and global socio-economic transformations. By linking sustainability with economic and business performance, firms contribute not only to environmental outcomes but also to the durability of inclusive and resilient community structures at both local and global levels.

Development of the Conceptual Framework

This figure illustrates the proposed interdisciplinary conceptual framework explaining the relationship between economic inclusion and community resilience. Economic inclusion is positioned as the foundational driver that expands economic participation and access to resources at the community level. Sustainability-oriented business strategies function as a mediating mechanism that transforms inclusive economic participation into long-term adaptive capacity. Community resilience represents the primary outcome, reflecting communities' ability to absorb shocks, adapt to change, and recover from disruptions. The global economic context moderates these relationships by shaping the effectiveness and stability of inclusive and sustainable economic systems.

- Economic Inclusion → Sustainability-Oriented Business Strategies

Expanding access to resources, markets, and economic participation

- Sustainability-Oriented Business Strategies → Community Resilience

Translating inclusion into long-term adaptive capacity and stability

- Economic Inclusion → Community Resilience (indirect effect)

Strengthening social cohesion and economic continuity

- Global Economic Context → All Relationships (moderating)

Shaping the strength and direction of inclusive and resilient dynamics

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that economic inclusion plays a fundamental role in strengthening community resilience within an increasingly uncertain global economy. Based on the systematic synthesis of the literature, inclusive economic systems that expand access to resources, employment, and economic participation create the initial conditions necessary for communities to absorb shocks, adapt to change, and recover from economic and social disruptions. However, the findings also indicate that economic inclusion alone is insufficient to generate long-term resilience outcomes without supportive business mechanisms.

The study further concludes that sustainability-oriented business strategies function as a critical mechanism that translates inclusive economic participation into durable adaptive capacity at the

community level. When sustainability principles are embedded within core business strategies, inclusive economic practices are transformed into stable employment, resilient value chains, and long-term socio-economic continuity. In this process, the global economic context shapes the effectiveness of inclusive and sustainable systems by influencing the stability of markets, institutions, and resource flows.

Based on these conclusions, this study suggests that policymakers should prioritize the integration of inclusive economic policies with sustainability-driven business frameworks to strengthen community resilience. Business practitioners are encouraged to adopt sustainability-oriented and inclusive business models that support long-term value creation and community stability. For researchers, the proposed conceptual framework provides a foundation for empirical testing across different socio-economic and geographic contexts, as well as for exploring additional institutional and governance factors that influence inclusive and resilient development pathways.

5. REFERENCES

- Agrawal, S., Oza, P., Kakkar, R., Tanwar, S., Jetani, V., Undhad, J., & Singh, A. (2024). Analysis and recommendation system-based on PRISMA checklist to write systematic review. *Assessing Writing*, 61, 100866.
- Ashrafi, M., Magnan, G. M., Adams, M., & Walker, T. R. (2020). Understanding the conceptual evolutionary path and theoretical underpinnings of corporate social responsibility and corporate sustainability. *Sustainability*, 12(3), 760.
- Boarini, R., Causa, O., Fleurbaey, M., Grimalda, G., & Woolard, I. (2018). Reducing inequalities and strengthening social cohesion through inclusive growth: a roadmap for action. *Economics*, 12(1), 20180063.
- DiBella, J., Forrest, N., Burch, S., Rao-Williams, J., Ninomiya, S. M., Hermelingmeier, V., & Chisholm, K. (2023). Exploring the potential of SMEs to build individual, organizational, and community resilience through sustainability-oriented business practices. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 32(1), 721–735.
- Dushkova, D., & Ivlieva, O. (2024). Empowering communities to act for a change: A review of the community empowerment programs towards sustainability and resilience. *Sustainability*, 16(19), 8700.
- Ebabu, E. A., Yu, H., Weikang, Z., & Gong, H. (2025). Economic and Social Impacts of Sustainable Entrepreneurship: Systematic Review and Bibliometric Study of Global Evidence. *Sustainable Development*.
- El Korchi, A. (2022). Survivability, resilience and sustainability of supply chains: The COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 377, 134363.
- Fujimoto, Y., & Uddin, J. (2022). Inclusive leadership for reduced inequality: economic–social–economic cycle of inclusion. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 181(3), 563–582.
- Hiebl, M. R. W. (2023). Sample selection in systematic literature reviews of management research. *Organizational Research Methods*, 26(2), 229–261.
- J Nair, A., Manohar, S., & Mittal, A. (2024). Reconfiguration and transformation for resilience: Building service organizations towards sustainability. *Journal of Services Marketing*, 38(4), 404–425.
- Kalkanci, B., Rahmani, M., & Toktay, L. B. (2019). The role of inclusive innovation in promoting social sustainability. *Production and Operations Management*, 28(12), 2960–2982.
- Koliou, M., van de Lindt, J. W., McAllister, T. P., Ellingwood, B. R., Dillard, M., & Cutler, H. (2020). State of the research in community resilience: Progress and challenges. *Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*, 5(3), 131–151.
- Krysovaty, A., Ptashchenko, O., Kurtsev, O., & Ovagim, A. (2024). The concept of inclusive economy as a component of sustainable development. *Problemy Ekonomicheskoy Istraživaniya*, 19(1).
- Nave, A., & Ferreira, J. (2019). Corporate social responsibility strategies: Past research and future challenges. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, 26(4), 885–901.
- Niaz, M. U. (2022). Socio-economic development and sustainable development goals: A roadmap from vulnerability to sustainability through financial inclusion. *Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja*, 35(1), 3243–3275.

- Peters, M. D. J., Godfrey, C., McInerney, P., Khalil, H., Larsen, P., Marnie, C., Pollock, D., Tricco, A. C., & Munn, Z. (2022). Best practice guidance and reporting items for the development of scoping review protocols. *JBIEvidence Synthesis*, 20(4), 953–968.
- Purnomo, B. R., Adiguna, R., Widodo, W., Suyatna, H., & Nusantoro, B. P. (2021). Entrepreneurial resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic: navigating survival, continuity and growth. *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies*, 13(4), 497–524.
- Rathobei, K. E., Ranängen, H., & Lindman, Å. (2024). Exploring broad value creation in mining- Corporate social responsibility and stakeholder management in practice. *The Extractive Industries and Society*, 17, 101412.
- Schweikert, A., Espinet, X., & Chinowsky, P. (2018). The triple bottom line: bringing a sustainability framework to prioritize climate change investments for infrastructure planning. *Sustainability Science*, 13(2), 377–391.
- Stubbs, W. (2019). Strategies, practices, and tensions in managing business model innovation for sustainability: The case of an Australian BCorp. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, 26(5), 1063–1072.
- van Bommel, K. (2018). Managing tensions in sustainable business models: Exploring instrumental and integrative strategies. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 196, 829–841.
- Van Niekerk, A. J. (2020). Inclusive economic sustainability: SDGs and global inequality. *Sustainability*, 12(13), 5427.
- van Wee, B., & Banister, D. (2024). Literature review papers: the search and selection process. *Journal of Decision Systems*, 33(4), 559–565.
- Vroegindewey, R., & Hodbod, J. (2018). Resilience of agricultural value chains in developing country contexts: A framework and assessment approach. *Sustainability*, 10(4), 916.
- Wahidah, F. (2025). Pengembangan Kurikulum Merdeka Belajar Pada Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini Dalam Pembentukan Karakter Moderat Berbasis Multiple Intelligence. *Jurnal Penelitian IPTEKS*, 10(2), 1-11.
- Wahidah, F., & Saiful, M. (2025). Pengembangan Pembelajaran Responsif Anak: Transformasi Pembentukan Sosial Emosional AUD sebagai Solusi Holistik di RA Darul Ulum 1 Jember. *Journal of Early Childhood Education Studies*, 5(2), 489-501.
- Wasila, S., Arifin, Z., & Wahidah, F. (2026). From Policy to Classroom: A Strategic Approach to Scaling Skills-Based Learning in Secondary Education. *Assyfa Learning Journal*, 4(1), 1-16.
- Zabaniotou, A., Syrgiannis, C., Gasperin, D., de Hoyos Guevera, A. J., Fazenda, I., & Huisinigh, D. (2020). From multidisciplinary to transdisciplinarity and from local to global foci: integrative approaches to systemic resilience based upon the value of life in the context of environmental and gender vulnerabilities with a special focus upon the Brazilian Amazon biome. *Sustainability*, 12(20), 8407.
- Zupancic, N. (2023). Systematic literature review: Inter-relatedness of innovation, resilience and sustainability-major, emerging themes and future research directions. *Circular Economy and Sustainability*, 3(3), 1157–1185.